



Fairfield County  
**Health  
Department**

R. Joseph Ebel RS, MS, MBA  
Health Commissioner

**BOARD OF HEALTH RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS**

Fairfield County Health Department  
Minutes of the Board of Health  
November 8, 2023, at 4:00 p.m.

**MEETING LOCATION:** Government Services Building (WIC Pickerington), 11050 Tussing Road, Pickerington

The meeting was called to order by Brian Oliver at 7:04 PM.

**Board Members Present**

Tina Childers  
Dr. Steven Kapetansky  
Dr. Teresa Wood  
Dr. Michele Morrone  
Brian Oliver

**Board Members Absent**

A quorum was established. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**STAFF PRESENT**

Mary Smith, WIC Director; Jamie Ehorn, Administrative Services Director; Gale Neville, Nursing Director; Joe Ebel, Health Commissioner; Bobby Persinger, Health Promotion Supervisor; Dr. Aebi, Medical Director

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Randy Kemmerer, Liberty Township  
Alfonzo Wolf, Stoutsville  
Audrey Stoffel  
Gary George, Berne Township

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The meeting minutes from the board meeting on October 11, 2023, were presented and approved with no changes noted.

## **HEARING AND VARIANCES**

The 2024 fee schedule was presented for the 2nd reading. There were no comments. Board member Teresa Wood requested that the fees be sent to the District Advisory Council for review.

## **FEATURED PROGRAM/BOARD EDUCATION:**

The Fairfield County Public Health Guardian Award recognizes individuals and organizations that have made outstanding contributions to the community's health. Brian Oliver, Board President, read the proclamation and Joe Ebel, Health Commissioner, presented the 2023 Public Health Guardian Award to Dr. Mark Aebi, Fairfield County Health Department Medical Director.

## **STAFF REPORTS**

### **Environmental Health Report**

Rachel Moresea, Environmental Health Director provided a written report to the Board. Mrs. Moresea was attending a planning meeting in Walnut Township and was unable to attend. Mr. Ebel updated the board on the recent foodborne outbreak. The City Law Director took the vendor to court. The vendor was charged \$500 plus court costs and their business was shut down. Mr. Ebel also updated the board on WPCLF funding. All the 2022 funding has been spent down and a majority of the 2023 funding has projects bid out and in process. 2024 funding will become available for use early next year.

### **Nursing Report**

Gale Neville, Nursing Director provided a written report to the Board. Clinics continue to stay busy with Flu, COVID-19, and RSV clinics. Additional RSV vaccine was ordered on Monday. Mrs. Neville discussed reports of E-Coli in the community and will update the board as more information becomes available. There was discussion on the difference between tick reporting numbers in Fairfield County vs. the State of Ohio. There was also discussion related to the Communicable Disease report.

### **WIC Report**

Mary Smith, WIC Director, provided a written report to the Board. The WIC caseload is 1073 in Lancaster and 504 in Pickerington for a total caseload of 1577. Our Breastfeeding Peer Helper travels to Pickerington once a month to provide breastfeeding support to moms in the community. Farmer's market redemption rate is 57%. At the WIC Director's meeting, there was discussion regarding electronic reporting of Farmer's Market coupons which would allow Farmer's to be reimbursed the next day. Ms. Smith provided a list of WIC participants by township in her board report.

### **Health Promotion**

Bobby Persinger, Health Promotion Supervisor, provided a written report to the Board. There has been an increase in patients at the STI clinic. Fairfield Medical Center has been referring

patients to the clinic. We engaged with 1500 people during the Fairfield County Fair, passing out goody bags at our fair booth. There are five community partners participating in our Cribs for Kids Project. We recently received 5000 Narcan kits to distribute to the community. Mr. Persinger has resigned his position. Brian Oliver wished him well in his new endeavors and stated that he went above and beyond what was asked of him.

### **Health Commissioner's Report**

Joe Ebel, Health Commissioner provided a written report to the Board. The financial statements look good. The 2024 budget will be updated soon, and we will begin working on the 2025 budget so it can be approval by the Board in February.

Mr. Ebel talked about the WIC Pickerington facility and how we have occupied this space for several years. WIC meets with participants at this location twice a week. We also provide immunizations at this location once a month. We are thankful to the commissioners for freeing up this space for us.

Mr. Ebel spoke with the County Administrator, Aundrea Cordle, regarding the use of the Capital Budget to help supplement the cost of a new facility for the Health Department.

Roxanne Harmon was hired as our new Account Specialist. We have had three recent resignations recently, Public Health Emergency Coordinator, Epidemiologist and Health Promotion Supervisor positions. Mr. Ebel will be looking into how we can re-organize given the vacant positions.

The staff retreat/training day was held at Wagnalls Memorial last month. At the end of the day staff drove down the road where we were given a private tour of the Rock Mill led by a Fairfield County Park Volunteer Historian. Brian Oliver attended the morning of the retreat and commented that staff were engaged in the training, and it was a day well spent by the Health Department.

Mr. Ebel and Mrs. Moresea have been attending planning meetings around the county discussing the Comprehensive Land Use Plan for each township. Mr. Oliver encourages everyone to attend at least one of these meetings to educate themselves on proposed changes and development in Fairfield County.

### **FINANCIAL REPORTS AND BILLS**

Jamie Ehorn, Administrative Services Director provided financial reports and a bill list to the Board for approval.

**Teresa Wood made a motion to approve the financial report and bill list. Tina Childers seconded the motion. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.**

Mrs. Ehorn presented resolution 2023-15: Appropriation of Unappropriated Funds

**Tina Childers made a motion to approve resolution 2023-15. Teresa Wood seconded the motion. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.**

Mrs. Ehorn presented resolution 2023-16: Amend Certificate, Appropriate Unappropriated, Update Receipt Line

**Tina Childers made a motion to approve resolution 2023-16. Michele Morrone seconded the motion. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.**

#### **PERSONNEL**

Resignation of Mitchell McGuire, Epidemiologist on November 16, 2023.

Resignation of Bobby Persinger, Health Promotion Supervisor on November 16, 2023.

There were five applications received for the medical director position. After interviewing candidates, Mr. Ebel's recommendation is to offer Dr. Steven Kapetansky the position. He holds a master's in public health, he is local, and he has a presence in the community. Dr. Kapetansky would need to resign his board membership prior to starting the medical director position.

**Tina Childers made a motion to hire Dr. Steven Kapetansky as the medical director effective January 1, 2024. Teresa Wood seconded the motion. There were four ayes, no nays and one abstention (Dr. Steven Kapetansky).**

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Randy Kemmerer voiced his concerns about a property in Liberty Township (1455 Leonard Road). The house was built in 2016 and does not have a septic system. Mr. Kemmerer requested that the environmental health staff visit the property for public health concerns.

#### **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Teresa Wood spoke of OhioHealth Pickerington Medical Campus, a smart hospital, opening on Refugee Road in Pickerington on December 5<sup>th</sup> and encouraged Mr. Ebel to tour the facility.

**NEXT BOARD MEETING:** December 13, 2023, at 4:00 p.m.

**LOCATION:** 1550 Sheridan Drive, Suite 100, Lancaster

**ADJOURN** The Board of Health Meeting adjourned at 8:11 p.m. on a motion by Tina Childers. Teresa Wood seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Approved:

Signature and date on file \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Brian Oliver, Board President

Signature and date on file \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ R. Joseph Ebel, Health Commissioner